

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of August 9, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0076021 A1 to Lopez, *et al.* (hereinafter Lopez).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims so as to expedite prosecution of the present application by emphasizing certain aspects of the invention. However, such amendments should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter and Applicants reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification and no new matter has been introduced.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by Claim 1, is a method of providing identifying information over a voice communications link.

The method can include receiving, from a call participant, a personal identification code over the voice communications link and determining identifying information for the call participant using the personal identification code (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0022] and [0023], and steps 205, 210, and 215 in Fig. 2). The method can also include encoding the identifying information of the call participant and embedding the encoded identification information within a voice stream carried by the voice communications link. The method further can include sending the voice stream and the embedded identifying information to a subscriber (see, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0025] and [0030], and steps 225 and 230 in Fig. 2).

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Lopez discloses a caller ID service which can be offered by a telephone service provider to enable a caller ID subscriber to positively determine the identity of a member of a defined group regardless of the phone number from which the call is made (see the abstract).

However, Lopez does not disclose encoding the identifying information of the call participant, embedding the encoded identification information within a voice stream carried by the voice communications link, and sending the voice stream and the embedded identifying information to a subscriber. In Lopez, the caller identifying information, namely the Group Member Identification Number (GMIN) consisting of a maximum of ten numbers with assigned numbers from 0 to 9, is not encoded, embedded in the voice stream, and sent to the subscriber together with the voice stream. Instead, with Lopez identifying information is merely collected by the switch and displayed on the called party display (see paragraphs [0028] to [0030] of Lopez).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable over Lopez. Moreover, Applicants further respectfully submit that,

whereas each of the dependent claims depends from Claim 1, 10, or 19 while reciting additional features, the dependent claims are patentable as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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/Richard A. Hinson/

Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577
Richard A. Hinson, Registration No. 47,652
Yonghong Chen, Registration No. 56,150
Customer No. 40987
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 653-5000